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027049-000016.JHA.256204 WEMMH/SB/30 (4/03)
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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 335 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/977,804
Filing Date	October 15, 2001
First Named Inventor	John Frederick Parker et al.
Group Art Unit	3748
Examiner Name	Thai Ba Trieu
Attorney Docket Number	27049-16

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114 of the above-identified application.
 Note: 37 CFR § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 CFR § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (August 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 15865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR § 1.114

a. Previously submitted

- Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR § 1.116 previously filed on _____
- Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- Other _____

b. Enclosed

- Amendment/Reply
- Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- Other _____ Petition to Withdraw from Issuance _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(i) required.)

b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

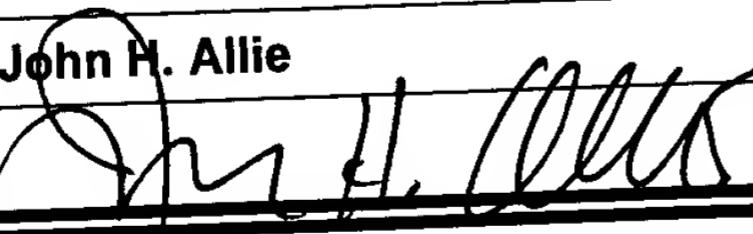
a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 23-3030.

- RCE fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(e)
- Extension of time fee (37 CFR §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- Other _____

b. Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed

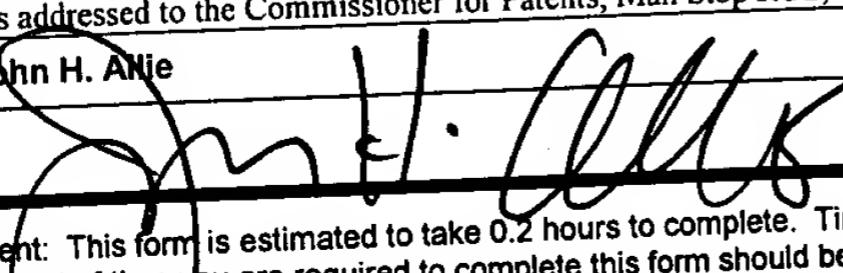
c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	John H. Allie	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	39,088
Signature		Date	December 17, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

"Express Mail" Label No. EV 394 04362 US Date of Deposit: December 17, 2003 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name (Print/Type)	John H. Allie	Date	December 17, 2003
Signature			

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

12/23/2003
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